

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Patents: Steven G. Fry, Shantanu Sarkar  
Assignee: Cisco Technology, Inc.  
Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS SUPPORTING NETWORK COMMUNICATIONS THROUGH A FIREWALL  
Serial No.: 09/456,692 Filed: December 9, 1999  
Examiner: Carl G. Colin Group Art Unit: 2136  
Docket No.: CIS0044US

---

Austin, Texas  
June 16, 2005

MAIL STOP RCE  
COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P. O. BOX 1450  
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

This paper and the accompanying Request for Continued Examination (RCE) are being submitted in response to the Final Office Action dated March 1, 2005, having a shortened statutory period set to expire on June 1, 2005. Accompanying this response is a one-month Petition Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 for Extension of Time setting a new time for response of July 1, 2005. Further examination and reconsideration are respectfully requested in view of the following amendments and remarks.

No Amendments to the Specification are presented in this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

No Amendments to the Drawings are presented in this paper.

Remarks begin on page 14 of this paper.